

116  
**ARTICLES**  
**TO BE ENQVIRED**  
**OF, WITHIN THE COMMIS-**  
**SARISHIP of *Essex* and *Hertford*,**  
**by the Church-Wardens and Sworne-**  
**Men in euery Parish.**

**And presentment to be made thereof to**  
**the *Commissary*.**

**With peculiar answer to euery Article.**

**Given *Anno Dom.* 16**



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**LONDON,**  
**Printed by JOHN LEGATT.**  
**1625.**

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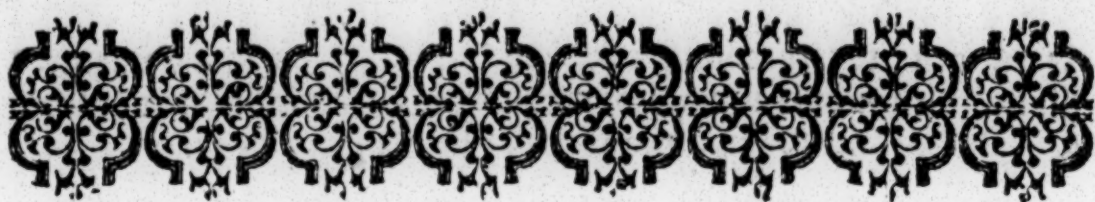
LONDON,  
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117.  
The Tenor of the Oath ministred to all the  
*Church-Wardens and Sworne-men.*

**Y**ee shall sweare; that all affection, hatred, hope of reward, or gaine, or feare of displeasure, or malice set aside, you shall, vpon due consideration of the Articles giuen you in charge, present to the Commissary or his Officiall, all and every such person, of, or within your Parish, as hath committed any offence, or fault, or made any default mentioned in any of these Articles, or which are vehemently suspected, or otherwise defamed of any such offence, fault, or default, wherein you shall deale vprightly, and according to equity, neither of malice presenting any contrary to Truth, nor of corrupt affection sparing to present any, and to conceale the Truth, hauing in this action God before your eyes, with an earnest zeale to maintaine Truth, and to suppress Vice: So helpe you God, and his faithfull promises in Christ Iesus.

BRITISH  
MUSEUM  
40  
8  
750





ARTICLES TO BE  
ENQVIRED WITHIN  
the Commissaryship of *Essex* and  
*Hertford*, for this present yeere of  
our Lord God, 16.

Articles concerning the Church.



Whether haue you in your severall Churches  
and Chappels, the last Booke of Constituti-  
ons or Canons Ecclesiasticall, ready to bee  
read by your Minister.

2. Whether is there in your Church or  
Chappell, one parchment Register Book, pro-  
vided for Chyffenings, Marriages, and Buri-  
als: and whether is the same duely and exact-  
ly kept, according to the Constitutions in that case provided?

3. Whether haue you the Booke of common Prayer, comman-  
ded by the late Kings Maiesties authoritie only to be vsed, and the  
booke of Homilies, and two Psalters: and whether you haue in your  
Church or Chappell a Font of Stone set vp in the ancient vsuall place,  
a conuenient and decent Communion Table standing vpon a frame,  
with a Carpet of silke, or some other decent stuffe, and a faire linnen  
cloth to lay thereon at the Communion time: and whether is the  
same then placed in such conuenient sort within the Chancell or  
Church, as that the Minister may be best heard in his prayer and ad-  
ministration, and that the greater number may communicate: and  
whether are the ten Commandements set vp on the East end of your  
Church or Chappell, where the people may best see and reade them,  
and other sentences of holy Scripture, written on the walles likewise  
for the same purpose?

## Articles concerning the Clergie.

4 Whether haue you a conuenient seat for the Minister to reade Seruice in, together with a comely Pulpit set vp in a conuenient place, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same: a comely large Surplesse, a faire Communion cup of silver, and a couer agreeable for the same, with all other things and ornaments necessary for the celebration of diuine Seruice, and administration of the Sacraments, and a strong chest for the Almes of the Poore, with three lockes and keyes, and another chest for the keeping of the Dynaments of the Church and Register Booke?

5 How many Bels are there at this present hanging in the Belfree of your Parish Church, and how many haue there bin heretofore? Whether any of your said Bels haue been taken downe and sold, or made away: and what other Church goods are now wanting in your Church?

6 Whether are your Church or Chappels with the Chancels thereof, and your Parsonage or Vicarage-house, and all other housing thereto belonging, in good reparations, and decently and comely kept as well within as without: the seates well maintained, your Churchyard well fenced and kept without abuse, according to the 85. Canon? If not, then thzough whose default, and what defects are?

7 Whether doe any withhold the stocke of the Church, or any goods or other things giuen to good and charitable vse? All those things in these Articles, to be prepared, according to the Canons, vnder the title appertaining to Churches.

## Articles concerning the Clergie.

Whether hath your Minister read the Constitutions set forth by the late Kings Maiestie, once euery yeere, vpon some Sundayes or Holidayes in the afternoone befoze Diuine Seruice, according as by the Canons he is bound?

2 Whether doth your Minister vse to pray for the Kings Maiestie King Charles, Fredericke, Count Palatine of Rheine, with the Lady Elizabeth his Wife: giuing vnto him such stile and Title of Supreme Governour ouer all causes, and ouer all persons, as well Ecclesiasticall as Tempozall, as by law are due vnto him, exhorting their Parishioners to yeeld him obedience according to the same: and also in their said Sermons, doe pray for all Archbishops, Bishops, and other Ecclesiasticall persons, according to the 55. Canon?



## Articles concerning the Clergie.

120.

3 Whether is the prescript forme of Divine Service vsed by your Minister vpon Sundayes, Holydayes, Wednesdays, and Fridayes, according to the Booke of Common Prayer? And whether doth your Minister duly obserue all the Orders, Rites, and Ceremonies prescribed in the said Booke of Common Prayer, as well in reading publike Prayers, the Letany, as also in administering the Sacraments, in such manner and forme, wearing the Surplisse, as by the booke of Common Prayer by Law now established is enioyned?

4 Whether doth your Minister administer the holy Communion so often, and at such times, as that euery Parishioner may receiue the same at least thrice in euery yere, whereof once at Easter, as by the booke of Common Prayer is appointed. And whether doth your Minister receiue the same himselfe on euery day that he administreth to others, knœling at the same, and administreth it to none but such as doe knœle at the receiuing thereof, and vse the words of the Institution according to the booke, at euery time that the Bread or Wine is receiued, in such manner and forme, as by the Prouiso of the 21. Canon is directed, or wherein he is faulty? And whether is warning giuen by him befozehand for the Communion, as the 22. Canon requireth?

5 Whether hath your Minister admitted any notorious offenders, or Schismatikes to the Communion, contrary to the 26. and 27. Constitutions, without satisfaction by due course of Law soe enioyned them, or reiected any from the Communion who were not by publike presentment, or other open scandall, infamous & detected of some notorious crime, by common fame published in the Parish?

6 Whether the Minister, together with the Churchwardens and Auestinen, doe take diligent heed and care, and not only all and euery of your owne Parishioners do receiue thrice in euery yere, as aforesaid: but also that no strangers of any other Parish doe forsake their owne Minister and Parish to receiue with you, contrary to the 28. Canon?

7 Whether doth your Minister vse to signe their children with the signe of the Crosse, when they are baptized, according to the booke of Common Prayer, and the 30. Canon: and doth he neuer faile to vse the said signe of the Crosse? And whether he hath deferred, or wilfully refused to Baptize any Infant in his Parish being in danger, having beene duely informed of the weakenesse thereof? And whether the child hath dyed by his default without baptisme, contrary to the 68. and 69. Canons.

## Articles concerning the Clergie.

8 Whether is your Minister continually resident with you upon his Benefice: or for how long time hath he been absent, and whether he is resident for the most part, and what other Benefice hath he?

9 Whether doth your Minister, being a preacher, preach usually according to the Constitutions, either in his owne Cure with you once every Sunday, or else in some other Church or Chappell, neere adioyning, where no Preacher is, according to the 45. Canon, or how hath he been negligent in that behalfe.

10 Whether is your Minister a Preacher allowed: if yea; then by whom: if no, whether doth he procure Sermons to be preached among you once in every moneth at the least, by such as are lawfully licenced, according to the 46. Canon, or doth contribute toward a licenced Preacher, if his living will beare it?

11 Whether hath your Minister another Benefice: and whether doth he supply his absence by a Curate, that is sufficiently licenced to preach in that Cure of his, whereon he himselfe is not resident: or otherwise in case he doe not finde a preaching Minister there, by reason of the smallnesse thereof, whether doth he preach at both his Benefices usually himselfe, according to the 47. Canon?

12 Whether is your Curate licenced to serue by the Bishop of this Diocesse, or by any other, and by whom: whether doth your Minister, or Curate serue more Cures then one, contrary to the 48. Canon. If yea, what other Cure doth he also serue?

13 If your Minister be not licenced to preach, as beforesaid, whether doth he reade homilies, or rather take upon him to expound the Scriptures either in his owne Cure or elsewhere, contrary to the 49. Canon: if yea, then you are to present him, and specifie the place where he hath so preached.

14 Whether hath any person been admitted to preach within your Church or Chappell, but such as you haue well knowne to be sufficiently licenced, whom you haue so admitted: you shall present their names, and how often haue any such been admitted to preach, and by whose procurement: And whether haue you caused euery strange Preacher, licenced or not licenced, to subscribe his name, together with the day when he preached, according to the 50 and 51. Canons: and if he were licenced, then by whom he was licenced: And whether haue they, or any other preached in your Church, not being soberly and decently apparrelled, according to the 47. Canon?

15 Whether doth your Lecturer and Preacher reade diuine Service, and minister the Sacraments in his owne person twice every  
yeare,



yeare, obseruing all the Ceremonies in the Booke of Common prayer, established according to the 36. Canon :

16 Whether doth your Minister weare the Surplesse whilst he is saying the publike prayers, and administering the Sacraments, & doth he neuer omit it ; and if he be any Graduate, whether then doth he also weare vpon his Surplesse, during the times aforesaid, such a hood as by the orders of his Uniuersitie is agreeable to his degree, according to the 58. Canon ?

17 Whether doth your Minister euery Sunday and Holyday before Euening prayer, for halfe an houre or more, examine and instruct the youth and ignorant persons of his Parish, in the ten commandments, the Articles of beliefe, and the Lords Prayer, as also in the Catechisme last set forth in the booke of Common prayer, whereby the children of the Parish may be prepared for confirmation, according to the 90. Canon ?

18 Whether hath your Minister, without licence from the Archbishop, the Bishop of the Diocese, or his Chancelloz, or Commissary, or from the Arch-deacon, or his Officiall, solemnized marriage betwixt any parties, the Banes not being thre seuerall Sundayes, or Holydayes first published in time of Diuine Seruice, in the seuerall Churches or Chappels of their seuerall abode, according to the booke of common prayer, and the 62. Canon : and also betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone, contrary to the 102. Canon ?

19 Whether hath your Minister, since the last Canon published, solemnized any marriage betwixt any persons, being vnder the age of 21. yeares, although the Banes be thrice asked, before such times as the parents haue made knowne vnto him their consent thereunto, contrary to the 99. and 100. Canons : and whether hath he married any of another Diocese, and who are they, and by what authority, and when ?

20 Whether doth your Minister, vpon Sundayes at morning prayer, declare vnto the Parishioners what Holy-daies and Fasting daies are appointed to be kept the weeke following, according to the 64. Canon, whereby they may be put in mind to prepare themselves accordingly, and to repaire to the Church to publike Prayer, as by Law they are bound.

21 Whether doth your Minister, in the Rogation dayes, vse the perambulation of the circuit of the Parish, appointed by Law, and in the same perambulation moue the people to giue thanks to God for his benefits, vsing such Psalmes, Prayers, and Homilies as are to that end set forth ?

22 Whether doth any man (being neither Minister nor Deacon) reade common prayer openly in your Church or Chappell, or administer the Sacrament of Baptisme, or solemnize Matrimony, or take vpon him to practise any other Ministeriall duty in the Church, that is prescribed to be executed particularly by such as are either Ministers or Deacons, and what is his name that so doth?

23 Whether doth your Minister every sixe moneths denounce in his Parish, all such of his Parish, as doe perseuere in the sentence of Excommunication, not seeking to be absolved: and whether hath he admitted any person excommunicate into the Church, without a certificate of his absolution from the Ordinary, or other competent Judge vnder his Seale, according to the Canons: or doth he wittingly and willingly keep company with such as are excommunicate?

24 Whether doth your Minister, being a Preacher, endeavour and labour diligently, with mildnesse and temperance to confer with, and thereby to reclaime the Popish Recusants in his parish from their errors, if there be any such there being: and whether is he painfull in visitation of the sick, according to the Booke of common prayer, and the Canons in that case provided?

25 Whether is your Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, or Curate, too much frequent or ouer-conuersant with, or a fauourer of Recusants, whereby he may be suspected not to be sincere in Religion?

26 Whether hath your Minister, or any other, taken vpon him the place of a minister, preached, baptized children (vnlesse in case of necessitie) solemnized marriage, churched any woman, or administered the holy Communion in any priuate house or houses: if yea, then where, whom & how often hath he so offended in any of the premises?

27 Whether hath your Minister, or any other, exercised any publike or priuate fables or prophesies, not approued and established by law, or publike authoritie: or hath he attempted vpon any pretence either of possession, by fasting and Prayer to cast out Diuels, contrary vnto the 72. Canon.

28 Whether hath your Minister, or any other person or persons within your parish, vsed to meete in any priuate house or other place, or doth preach in any place, or vse any other forme of Diuine service then is appointed in the Booke of common prayer, and to hold priuate conuenticles, contrary to the 73. Canon? If yea, then you shall present them all and every of them.

29 Whether doth your Minister vse such decency and comelinesse in his apparrell, as by the 74. Constitution is enioyned him, as well at home, as when he goeth abroad?



Articles concerning the Clergie.

30 Whether doe you know in your Parish, any that hauing heretofore taken vpon him or them the order of Priesthood, or of a Deacon, hath since relinquished the same, and betaken himselfe to the course of life of a Lay-man, neglecting his vocation? If yea, then you shall present his name and the place of his abode.

31 Whether is your Minister noted or defamed, to haue obtained his benefice by Symony, or reputed to be an incontinent person, or doth keepe any man or woman in his house, that are suspected either to be of euill Religion, or bad life, himselfe to be a common Drunkard, or to be a common hunter of Tauerne, Alehouses, or other suspected places, a common Gamester, or player at Dice, or other vnlawfull Games, a common Swearer, or notorious person, or faulty in any other crime punishable by Ecclesiasticall censures, whereby he is offensive and scandalous to his function or Ministry?

32 Whether doth your Minister vse the forme of Thankesgiuing to women after their Child-birth, and whether hath he admitted any thereunto that was begotten with child in Adultery, or Fornication, without licence of his Ordinary: and whether haue any married wiues refused to come to Church, according to the Booke of Common prayer, to giue God thanks after Child-birth: if any be faultie therein, you shall present their names?

33 Whether doth your Minister baptize any children in any Bas-son or other vessell, then in the ordinary Font, being placed in the Church according to the 81. Canon, or doth put any Bas-son into it?

34 Whether hath your Minister kept any excommunication in his custody vnpublished against any of his Parishioners, aboue the space of x. dayes next after the receit thereof, without some lawfull certificate of the absolution of any such excommunicate person, or of some lawfull warrant for the stay of the same Excommunication?

35 Whether hath your Minister admitted any excommunicate person to the holy Communion, befoze he hath receiued a certificate of the absolution of the same partie? And whether haue you permitted any excommunicate person, either of your owne Parish, or of any other Parish to heare Diuine seruice in your Parish Church, since the time you tooke vpon you the Office of Churchwardens within your said Parish? If yea, set downe the names of the same parties.

36 Whether hath your Minister absolved any excommunicate person or persons of your parish, or of any other parish within the Comissariship of Essex & Hertford, within the space of the yere last past, without a speciall warrant in writing, vnder the hands of the Judge

Articles concerning Schoole-masters.

and Register of this Court, or one of them? If yea, what are the names of such person or persons which he hath so absolved?

37 Whether doth your Minister reade Divine service vpon these Festivall dayes following, viz. the Birth day of our Lord God, the Feasts of the Purification, and the Annunciation of Saint Mary the Virgin, the Feast of our Ascension of our Lord God; the Nativitie of Saint Iohn Baptist, and the Feast of all Saints: And whether doth your Minister reade evening prayer vpon these dayes following, viz. vpon the Eve of the Birth of our Lord God, Easter Eve, and Whitson Eve.

Articles concerning Schoole-masters.

Whether the Schoole-master, or Schoole-masters within your Parish, openly or privatelg. in any Noble or Gentle-mans house, or in any other place be of good and sincere Religion, life & conversation, and be diligent in the teaching and bringing vp of youth: and whether they haue been examined, allowed, and licenced for school-masters by the Ordinary in that behalfe, and how many severall schoolemasters haue you, and what be their names?

2 Whether your schoole-master, or schoolemasters doe themselves receiue the holy Communion as often as they ought to do, and whether doe all their schollers as be of age sufficient, and of capacity, by instruction to receiue the Lords Supper, come to the Communion either in your Church, or where their parents dwell, once every yeere, and be diligent to heare Common prayer?

3 Whether the schoole-master, or schoole-masters, either private or publicke, do teach their schollers the Catechisme, authozised by publicke authoritie, at the least once every weeke, and doe instruct and examine the same, or do teach any other Catechisme, and what Catechisme it is that they so teach?

4 Whether your schoole-master, or schoole-masters, or any of them be knowne or suspected to reade vnto their schollers privately, any vnlawfull bookes, or privately to instruct them in their young yeeres, either in Popery, superstition, disobedience, or contempt of his Majesty, and his Lawes Ecclesiasticall by publicke authoritie allowed?

5 What Recusant Papists are there in your parish? and whether doe they, or any of them, keep any schoole-master in their house, which commeth not to Church to heare Divine service, and receiue the Communion?



munion? what is his name, and how long hath he taught?

6 Whether the schoole-master, or schoole-masters within your parish do teach his or their schollers any other Grammar, then y<sup>e</sup> which is called the Kings Grammar, set forth by the authority of King Henry the eight, teaching the prescript forme therof, whereby their schollers may perfectly vnderstand their Grammar rules and constructions?

Articles concerning the Parishioners, and other of the Laitie.

**V**Whether is there any within your parish, that hath or doth impugne the Kings Maiesties Supremacy, and authority in causes Ecclesiasticall, or doth any way, or in any part impeach the same, being restored to the Crowne by the Lawes of the Realme established in that behalfe?

2 Whether is there any in your parish, that denieth the Church of England by law established vnder the Kings most excellent Maiesty, to be a true and Apostolicall Church, teaching and maintaining the doctrine of the Apostles?

3 Whether is there any in your parish, that doth impugne any of the Articles of Religion, agreed vpon in Anno 1562. and established in the Church of England?

4 Whether is there any in your parish, that do impugne and speake against the Rites and Ceremonies established in the Church of England, or the lawfull vse of them? you shall present their names.

5 Whether is there any in your parish, that doe impugne the gouernment of the Church of England vnder the Kings most excellent Maiesty, by Arch-bishops, Bishops Deanes, Arch Deacons, and the rest that beare Office in the same, affirming that the same is Antichristian or repugnant to the Word of God?

6 Whether is there any in your parish, that impugne the forme of consecration & ordaining of Arch-bishops, Bishops, Priests, or Deacons, affirming, that the same is repugnant to the Word of God: or that they, who are so ordred in the same forme, are not lawfully made?

7 Whether is there any in your parish that doth hold, or frequent any Conuenticles, or priuate meetings, and there doe confer or agree vpon any priuate orders, others then such as are by the Canons set forth by publike authoritie, to be by them, or any others in Church-gouernment obserued?

8 Whether any persons haue lurked or tippled in tauerne or ale-houses on Sundayes, or other holydayes, or vsed his, or their Manuall craft,

craft, trade, or myserie, or any bodily labour, or kept their shops open vpon the said dayes, or any of them, especially in the time of Diuine Seruice?

9 Whether are there any in your parish that doe, or haue prophaned (since the late Kings Maiesties last generall pardon) the Lords day, called Sunday, or any other Holy-day, contrary to the orders of the Church of England prescribed in that behalfe?

10 Whether hath any person in your Parish quarrelled, stricken, or vsed any violence vnto, or with your Minister, or any other, in the Church or Church-yard, or vsed himselte disorderly in the Church, by filthy and prophane talke, or any other rude & immodest behauiour?

11 Whether is that due reuerence and humble submission vsed within your Church or Chappell in the time of Diuine Seruice, as by the 18. Constitution is prescribed? and whether each one in the Church or Chappell, do apply and order himselte there in the time of Diuine seruice, as by the latter part of the same constitution is most commendably inioyned?

12 Whether the Churchwardens and Questmen do euery Sunday and Holy-day diligently search who absenteth himselte or her selfe from Church, or whether doe they suffer any to abide in the Church Porch, or Churchyard in the time of Common Prayer or Sermon?

13 Whether the Churchwardens do prouide against euery Communion, with the aduice of the Minister, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good and wholsome Wine, for the number of the Communicants that shall receiue, and that to be brought in a cleane and sweet standing pot of Pewder, or other pure Mettall.

14 Whether haue any in your Parish been Godfathers or Godmothers to their owne children; or whether your Minister, or any Godfathers or Godmothers haue vsed, or doe vse any other forme, answer, or speech in Baptisme, then is in the Booke of Common prayer appointed; or whether any which haue not communicated, be admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers, contrary to the 29. Canon?

15 Whether is there any in your parish that doe refuse to haue their children baptized, or themselues to receiue the communion at the hands of your Minister, because he is no Preacher? you shall present their names: and if your Minister, sithence the publishing of the said booke of Canons, haue receiued any such persons (being not of his owne Cure) to the communion, or baptized any of their children, you shall likewise present him.



Articles concerning Parishioners, &c.

16 Whether doe all Fathers, Mothers, Masters and Mistresses, cause their childzen, seruants, and apprentices, to come to the Catechisme vpon the Sundayes and Holy-dayes befoze Euening Prayer, to heare, and to be instructed and taught therein? and those that doe not their dutie herein, you shall present their names.

17 Whether haue you, or your predecessors Churchwardens there, suffered, since the last Vardon, any Playes, Feasts, Banquets, Church-Alms, Drinkings, or any other prophane vsages, to be kept in in your Church, Chappell, or Churchyard, as Bels to be rung superstitiously vpon Holy-dayes at Euen, abrogated by the booke of common Prayer, contrary to the 68. Canon.

18 How many Inhabitants within your Parish, men or women, aboue the age of sixtene yeres, do refuse to frequent diuine seruice, established by publike authority of this Realme, or to receiue the holy communion, or are negligent therein: what be their names, and what degree, or state or trade of life are they? you are to present them all of each sort.

19 Whether doe any of the Inhabitants within your said Parish entertaine within their House any sojourners, lodgers, or any common resorters of Ghefts, who refuse to frequent diuine seruice, or refuse the holy Communion, as aforesaid, what be their names, and of what qualitie or condition are they?

20 Whether any of the said Popish Recusants be of insolent behaviour, not without publike offence, or doe boldly busie themselves in seducing, or withdrawing others either abroad, or in their owne families, by instructing their childzen in Popish religion, or by refusing to entertaine any, especially in place of greatest seruice or trust, but such as concurre with them in opinion of Religion, and what be their names that doe so?

21 How long said the Popish Recusants haue obstinately abstained either from diuine seruice, or from communion, as is aforesaid, whether of any long time, or onely since his Maiesties reigne, and how long?

22 What persons aforesaid within your Parish, either for the offence aforesaid, or for any other contumacie or crime, doe remaine excommunicated: what be their names, and for what cause, and how long haue they so stood excommunicated?

23 Whether were you the Churchwardens and Aueſtmen chosen by the consent of the Minister and Parishioners in Easterweeke, according vnto the 89. and 90. Canons? And whether haue the Churchwardens befoze you giuen bp a iust account for their time, and deliue-

Articles concerning Parishioners, &c.

red to you their successors, whatsoener money or other things of right belonging to the Church, which was in their hands, according to the 89. Canon?

24 Whether do all persons above the age of sixteen yeeres; usually resort to heare Diuine Seruice vpon Sundaies and Holy-daies approued? And whether hath each one of your Parishioners (being above the age of sixteen yeeres, as aforesaid) receiued y<sup>e</sup> holy communion thrice this last yeere, chiefly once at Easter, in your Parish Church kneeling? If no, then you shal present their names w<sup>h</sup> haue not so done.

25 Whether haue you a fit Parish Clarke, aged 20. yeeres at the least, of honest conuersation, and sufficient for reading and writing; & whether are his and the Sextons wages paid without fraud, according to the most ancient custome of your parish: If not, then by whom is hee so defrauded and denied? And whether he be chosen by the Parson or Vicar: or by whom, according to the 91. Canon?

26 Whether doth your Clarke or Sexton keepe the Church cleane, the doores locked? is any thing lost or spoyled through his default, or doth he (when any is passing out of this life, neglect to tole the Bell, hauing notice thereof?

27 Whether haue any in your parish been married within the prohibited degrees forbidden by Law, and expressed in a certaine Table published by authoritie, in Anno 1563. If yea, then you shal present their names. And whether haue you the said Table publikely set vp in your Church, and fastened to some convenient place?

28 Whether doth any, heretofore diuorced, or married, and not diuorced, keepe company at bed and boord as man and wife, with any other man or woman, then with the person that he or shee was married vnto; and what be their names? If the parties now so living together say, that they be married, when and where were they married: and how long haue they so continued together?

29 Whether haue you in your parish, to your knowledge, or by common fame & report, any who haue committed Adultery, Fornication, or Incest; or any Bawdes, Harbourers or receiuers of such persons, or publikely suspected thereof, which haue not been publikely punished to your knowledge? If yea, then with whom? And whether are there any which are by common fame and report reputed, and taken to be common Drunkards, Blasphemers of Gods holy Name, common and vniuersall Swearers, filthy Speakers, Raylers, Solvers of discord among their Neighbores, or speakers against Ministers marriages, Adversers contrary to the Statute made in the seven and thirtieth yeere of King Henry the eight, Symoniacall persons, Fighters, Brawlers, or



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quarrellers in the Church or Churchyard? you shall not faile to present their names.

30 Whether haue any in your Parish receiued, or harboured any woman begotten with child out of wedlocke, and suffered them again to depart without penance first inflicted vpon them by their Ordinarie? you shall truly present as well the party harbouring as harboured, and who is suspected to haue committed Incontinency with her.

31 Whether any person or persons suspected or detected heretofore of Incontinency, and therefore departing out of your parish for a reason, is now returned againe: or in what place cle is he or she now abiding to your knowledge, or as you haue heard? you shall not faile to present the truth in that behalfe.

32 Whether there be any person or persons Ecclesiasticall or Temporal within your parish, or elsewhere within the Diocese, that haue retained and kept in their custody, or that read, sel, vtter, disperse, carry or deliuer to others any English or Latine books, or Libels, set forth or printed, either on this side or beyond the Seas, by Papists or Sectaries against the Kings supremacy in causes Ecclesiasticall, or tending to Popery, Puritanisme, or any other Sect, error, or heresie, against true religion, & Catholike doctrine, now publikely professed in this Church, or the gouernment, or discipline of the Church of England, now within this Realme, receiued and established by common authoritie, that you know, or haue heard of, what their names and surnames are?

33 Whether there be any in your parish, who are knowne or suspected to conceale, or keepe hidden in their houses any Masse booke, Portesses, Breuiaries, or other bookes of Popery or superstition; or any Challices, Copes, Vestments, Albes, or other Ornaments of superstition, vncancelled, or vndefaced, which is to be coniectured that they doe keepe for a day, as they call it?

34 Whether any of your Parishioners, hauing a Preacher to their Parson, Vicar, or Curate, doe absent themselves from his Sermons, and resort to another place to heare other Preachers?

35 Whether there be any Inne keepers, Ale-wiues, Victuallers, or Tipplers, that suffer, or doe admit any person, or persons into their houses, to eat, drinke, or play at Dice, Cards, Tables, Bowles, or such like Games, in the time of Common Prayer or Sermon, on Sundayes, or Holidayes: or any Butchers or other, that commonly vse to sell meate or other things in the time of common prayer, preaching, or reading of Homilies: and whether in any Fayres, or common Markets,

Articles concerning Parishioners, &c.

Markets, falling vpon Sundayes, there be shewing of any Wares befoze morning prayer be done? And whether any Markets or selling of Wares be vsed or suffered in any Churchyards on the Sabbath day by common Packemen and Pedlers going about, or any Butchers?

36 Whether your Minister or Churchwardens, or any of the parish, without the consent or priuity of the Ordinary, haue caused any to doe penance, or to be punished either openly, or otherwise, by any Alestrie-meetings, or haue taken money for any crime punishable by the Ecclesiasticall lawes onely, and what be the names of the parties that haue bin so punished, and in what manner?

37 Whether there be any in your Parish, who will come to heare the Sermon, but will not come to the publike prayer appointed by the booke of common Prayer, making a Schisme or diuision (as it were) betweene the vse of publike prayer and preaching? And whether there be any, who being present at publike prayer, doe not deuoutly and humbly kneele vpon their knees, at such times as by the booke of common prayer they are appointed: to wit, when they make a generall confession of their sins: when all Prayers and Collects are read; in the time of the Letany; when the ten Commandements are read; and at the receiuing of the holy Communion, &c. And what be their names that haue at any time shewed themselves vndutifull and vnreuerent in that behalfe?

38 Whether there be any married women, or others within your parish, which after child-birth, refuse, contemne, or neglect to come to the Church, to giue God thanks for their safe deliury, and to haue the prayers publikely appointed in that behalfe by the Booke of common Prayer? And whether are they apparrelled with a faire white baile of linnen cloth, and accompanied with some of the honest wiues of their Parish, according to the ancient custome of our Church of England: and whether any Minister doe winke at such fantasticall women which refuse so to doe?

39 Whether any within your Parish do resort into Barnes, Fields, Woods, private houses, or to any ordinarie expositions of Scriptures, or conferences together, or that be drawers or perswaders of others to any such Schismaticall Conuenticle?

40 Whether any do keepe their children vnbaptized longer then is convenient, vntill it be for the sicknesse of the child, or other urgent occasion? And whether any doe carry their child or children, from the parish they are borne in, to other parishes to be baptized, and



to refuse their owne parish, and to what other parish? Or doe bring strange Ministers into their owne houses to baptize their children privately, according to their owne phantasies?

41 Item (setting downe the full summe of the Communicants within your parish, you shall present every one who hath been defective at this Feast of Easter last past, in receiving the holy Communion upon neglect, contempt, or any other pretence and excuse.

42 Whether doe you know of any other matter of Ecclesiasticall cognizance worthy the presentment, in your iudgement, heretofore in these Articles not expressed, and which is fit to be reformed in Ecclesiasticall censure? If you doe, you shall likewise present the same by vertue of your Oathes.

43 Whether doe your Parishioners obserue and keepe holy the Holy and Festivall dayes, which by the Lawes and Statutes of this Land are commanded to be kept holy, and namely, these Festivall dayes following, viz. The Birth day of our Lord God, the Feast of the Purification and the Annunciation of Saint Mary the Virgin, the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God, the Nativitie of Saint Iohn Baptist, and the Feast of all Saints?

44 Whether the fifth day of November, be kept holy, & Thankes-giving be made to God for the States happy deliuerance, according to the Ordinance in that behalfe.

45 Lastly, you the Churchwardens are at the charge of your Parish, to provide a convenient large Sheete and a white wand to be had, and kept within your Church or Vestrie, to be used at such times as offenders are censured for their grievous and notorious crimes.

You shall bring in your answer to the Articles aforesaid, at a Court to be holden at the day of next.

Immediately after Michaelmas next, there shall be a Synode holden, where, and when, the Clergie and Churchwardens are upon warning given, to appeare: at which time the Churchwardens are to exhibite a Bill of Presentment to the Articles aforesaid, and then they shall exhibite no Bill of Presentment to the aforesaid Articles, untill the next Visitation following: but if there shall be iust cause to present any persons, the Churchwardens may at any time make Presentments, & bring y<sup>e</sup> same into the Registry. And at y<sup>e</sup> deliverte of your Presentment, you shall set down in the latter end thereof, the names of such as have bin buried within your Parish, for the space of a quarter of a yeere last past, befoze the date of your said Bill, being Men, Wives, or Widowes.

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Articles to bee enquired of, by the Minister, Church-wardens, and Sworne-men of euery Parish, within the *Commissary-ship* of *Essex* and *Hertford*, according to the speciall direction of certaine Letters heretofore sent to the Lord Bishop of *London*, from the right Honorable the Lords of the Priuy Councell.

**I**N primis: Whether there be any in your parish, either Parishioners, Sojourners, or such as be late come out of their Countreies into your parish, which doe refuse to come to Diuine Service to their parish Church, or elsewhere: and what be their names, and surnames, and how long they haue refused so to doe?

2 Item, How many of their wiues and childezen aboue the age of sixteene yeeres, seruants, and other Sojourners abiding in their houses, doe likewise refuse so to doe: and what be their names and surnames, and how long they haue refused so to doe?

3 Item, Whether there be any in your parish which be suspected to haue been reconciled to the Popish Religion, or to haue been absolved or any that procured or counselled thereunto: and what bee their names and surnames?

4 Item, whether there be any in your Parish which be suspected to be massing Priests, Reconcilers, Iesuites, Seminaries, or other persons which haue receiued any Orders or authoritie from the Romish church, to vse the like: and what be their names and surnames?

5 Item, Whether there be any Schoole-masters within your parish, which doe not bring vp their youth in the Religion now professed, or be not themselves diligent in repairing to Diuine Service, or bringing their schollers to it?

Articles concerning Parishioners.

**I**f euery parish where any manner of person dwelleth or sojourneth, which refuseth to goe to some Church to heare Diuine Service, the Minister and Churchwardens of that parish are commanded euerie moneth from henceforth, to go to euery such person with two or three honest witnesses, and before those witnesses to require euery such person to repaire to the Church to heare Diuine Service: and the said Minister and Churchwardens are commanded to send a Certificat in writing signed with the hands, marks, and seales of the said Minister, Churchwardens and Witnesses, to their Commissary, alwaies on the tenth day before Midsummer day: & on the tenth day before Christmasse day: So, as returne of such Certificate may be made in time



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time to the Custos Rotulorum, at every Assizes next ensuing those Feasts, testifying as well the manner and time of their admonishments of such Recusants whatsoever they be, as their answers: And when and whether they went to Church every moneth, after such admonition given to them, as aforesaid: And whether any such person hath wilfully withdraue from taking or vnderstanding such admonition: and also declaring the names, surnames, and abiding places of every one that shall offend in any part or clause of the aboue written Articles? This every Minister and Churchwarden is straightly charged to shew his diligence in, and effectually to doe, as they and e- uery of them shall and will answer to the contrary at their perils.

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To

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To the five Articles aforesaid touching  
the Recusants.

**Y**ou shall bring your Presentment into the Registrie of the *Commissary* of *Essex* and *Hertford*, tenne dayes before Midsummer day, and ten dayes before Christmasse day, specifying the proper and surname, title, and addition of euery person presented, and how many Moneths they haue refused to come to Diuine Seruice, to their Parish Church, or elsewhere, before the day of making your Presentment.

*F 7 N 7 S.*





